

~~TOP SECRET~~05 A
18

file
NIR
ExComm.
(Keep mTop Till
min. of mty
need)

DDST-7
D/SA ✓
SP

BLACK SHIELD ASSESSMENT

HANDLE VIA COMINT CHANNELS

WARNING

This document contains classified information affecting the national security of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, US Code, Title 18, Sections 793, 794, and 798. The law prohibits its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person, as well as its use in any manner prejudicial to the safety or interest of the United States or for the benefit of any foreign government to the detriment of the United States.

THIS DOCUMENT MUST BE KEPT IN COMMUNICATIONS
INTELLIGENCE CHANNELS AT ALL TIMES

It is to be seen only by US personnel especially indoctrinated and authorized to receive COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE information; its security must be maintained in accordance with COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE REGULATIONS.

No action is to be taken on any COMMUNICATIONS INTELLIGENCE which may be contained herein, regardless of the advantages to be gained, unless such action is first approved by the Director of Central Intelligence.

GROUP 1
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING
AND DECLASSIFICATION

~~TOP SECRET~~

8 1 DEC REC'D

John - This is copy of paper Adm. Taylor
passed out at ExComm. - Ed

~~TOP SECRET~~~~No Foreign Dissem~~SC No. 10390/67
20 December 1967

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Preliminary Assessment of Black Shield
Photography of 15 and 16 DecemberSummary

Two double-pass BLACK SHIELD missions flown over North Vietnam on 15 and 16 December provided cloud-free photographic coverage of about 67 percent of the country, including Hanoi, Haiphong, and the panhandle area. All of North Vietnam's six major airfields, 221 of the 226 usable SA-2 sites, about 80 percent of the entire rail network, and 30 priority bridges and 21 priority rail yards for bomb damage assessment were photographed. No evidence of surface-to-surface missile deployment was noted.

Note: This memorandum was prepared by the Directorate of Intelligence.

~~No Foreign Dis~~
~~TOP SECRET~~

3.5(c)

~~TOP SECRET~~
No Foreign Dissem

1. Two double-pass BLACK SHIELD missions flown over North Vietnam on 15 and 16 December provided cloud-free photography of about 67 percent of the country, including Hanoi, Haiphong, and the panhandle area. Mission 6739 (15 December) obtained 85-percent cloud-free coverage during its two passes--one up the Red River valley and the other along the China border area. Mission 6740 (16 December) obtained 60-percent cloud-free coverage during its two passes--one parallel to the Red River valley about 20-25 miles southwest of it and the other down through the panhandle. No evidence of surface-to-surface missile deployment was noted.

2. Surface-to-Air Missile Sites: Together the two missions photographed 221 of North Vietnam's 226 usable SA-2 sites--including six new sites. Of the 221 sites covered, 17 were occupied--including five of the six new sites, 197 were unoccupied, and seven sites could only be identified.

3. Air Order-of-Battle and Airfields: A total of 8 to 12 operational MIG fighters--four to five MIG-21s and four to seven MIG-15/17s were photographed on North Vietnamese airfields by the 15 December mission. The air order-of-battle estimate for that date was 13 MIGs--six MIG-21s and seven MIG-15/17s. At Phuc Yen Airfield, two to three operational MIG-21s, six probably destroyed MIGs, and one dummy MIG-21 were observed. Two operational MIG-21s and four to six operational MIG-15/17s were seen at Kep Airfield. In addition, one possibly operational MIG-15/17 was observed at Hanoi/Gia Lam Airfield. The 16 December mission showed two probably damaged MIG-15/17s and one dummy MIG at Hoa Lac Airfield. All of the six major airfields of North Vietnam, except Haiphong/Cat Bi, appeared to be serviceable in the 15 December photography, but three of these airfields--Phuc Yen, Kep, and Haiphong/Kien An--have been hit since then by air strikes.

4. Land Transportation System: The two missions photographed 100 percent of the Haiphong-Hanoi, Dong Dang-Hanoi, and Kep-Thai Nguyen-Hanoi rail lines. About forty percent of the Lao Cai-Hanoi

-2-

No Foreign Dissem
~~TOP SECRET~~

3.5(c)

~~TOP SECRET~~
No Foreign Dissem

rail line and about 60 percent of the Hanoi-Dong Hoi line were also covered.

5. At Haiphong, the railroad/highway bridge remains destroyed, but a rail ferry adjacent to the bridge is probably serviceable. The serviceability of this rail ferry by-pass is a new development and provides the North Vietnamese with a way to move freight cars to and from the port. This service had been denied since [] when the original bridge was destroyed.

3.3(h)(2)

6. At Hanoi, the two railroad/highway bridges were covered. The Canal des Rapides bridge was serviceable for both rail and highway traffic, and the Paul Doumer bridge was serviceable to highway and probably rail traffic. Both bridges have been attacked since the photography was taken and are now unserviceable. Each bridge has several rail and highway by-passes available so that the movement of goods can continue. In addition, two new highway pontoon and causeway by-passes were noted near the Paul Doumer bridge. This increases the total number of rail and highway by-passes within 15 miles of this bridge to 14.

7. On the Haiphong-Hanoi route, the railroad and highway bridges at Hai Duong and Ngoc Kuyet were covered. At Ngoc Kuyet, the main rail bridge is serviceable, but the highway bridge is unserviceable. This area has not been attacked recently. At Hai Duong, the rail bridge over the Song Thai Binh was unserviceable, but all rail and highway by-passes were serviceable. The Hai Duong Railroad Bridge East was serviceable, but two rail by-passes were unserviceable. A highway by-pass is serviceable. However, these bridges at Hai Duong have been struck again since this coverage.

8. The 16 December coverage of the Hanoi-Dong Hoi rail line indicated that it was serviceable as far south as Vinh. No new railroad construction activity on this route was detected.

-3-

No Foreign Dissem
~~TOP SECRET~~ []

3.5(c)

Top Secret

Top Secret